Killing in relapse of mortality[5].
Let me speak proudly;—Tell the Constable,

[5] Killing in RELAPSE of mortality.] What it is *to kill in relapse of mortality,* I do not know. I suspect that it should be read:

" Killing in *reliques* of mortality."*

That is, continuing to *kill* when they are the *reliques* [illegible] *death* has left behind it.

That the allusion is, as Mr. Theobald thinks, *exceedingly beautiful.* I am afraid few readers will discover. The *valour* of a putrid body, that destroys by the stench, is one of the thoughts that do no great honour to the poet. Perhaps from this putrid valour Dryden might borrow the posthumous empire of Don Sebastian, who was to reign wheresoever his atoms should be scattered. JOHNSON.

By this phrase, however uncouth, Shakspeare seems to mean the same as in the preceding line. *Mortality* is *death.* So, in King Henry VI. Part I.

«<...I beg *mortality*
[6](Rather than life——."

Relapse may be used for *rebound.* Shakspeare has given *mind of honour* for *honourable mind:* and by the same rule might write *relapse of mortality for* fatal or *mortal rebound:* or by *relapse of mortality,* he may mean—after they had *relapsed into inanimation.*

This *putrid valour* is common to the descriptions of other poets, as well as Shakspeare and Dryden, and is predicated to be no less victorious by Lucan, lib. vii. v. 821 :

Quid fugis hanc cladem, quid olentes deseris agros ?
Has trahe, Caesar, aquas ; hoc, si potes, utere coelo.
Sed tibi tabentes populi Pharsalica rura
Eripiunt, camposque tenent victore fugato.

Corneille has imitated this passage in the first speech in his Pompee:

——————— de chars,
Sur ses champs empestes confusement epars,
Ces montagnes de morts privees d'honneurs
supr&mes,
Oue la nature force il se venger eux-m&rnes,
Et de leurs troncs pourris exhale dans les vents
De quoi faire la querre au reste des vivans.

Voltaire, in his Letter to the Academy of Belles Lettres, at Paris, opposes the preceding part of this speech to a quotation from Shakspeare. The Frenchman, however, very prudently stopped before he came to the lines which are here quoted.

"'" '" * "
STEBVENS;